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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| Applicant(s): | Harald Schmidt et al. |) |
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| Application No. | 09/762,767 |) |
| Filed: | June 1, 2001 |) Group Art Unit: 1652 |
| For: | ISOLATED AND PURIFIED HUMAN SOLUBLE GUANYLYLCYCLASB V1/31 (hsGC V1/31) |))) |
| Examiner: | Manjunath N. Rao, Ph.D. |) Attorney Docket No. VQS-101 |

DECLARATION UNDER 37 CFR 132

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

ULRIKE ZABEL declares that:

- 1. She is familiar with the above-identified United States patent application;
- 2. She is a co-inventor of the invention described and claimed in the above-identified United States patent application together with Harald Schmidt and Wolfgang Poller;
- 3. She is familiar with the publication Zabel et al., Biochem. J. 335:51-57 (1998);
- 4. She is the Ulrike Zabel listed as one of the authors in the aforementioned publication by Zabel et al.;
- 5. Harald H. H. W. Schmidt listed as another author in the aforementioned publication by Zabel et al. is the same Harald Schmidt named as one of the inventors in the above-identified United States patent application;

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- 6. Monica Weeger was an assistant who worked under her guidance and supervision. Myliph Le was a student who was working under the guidance and supervision of Harald Schmidt, and both were listed as co-authors of the aforementioned publication by Zabel et al.;
- 7. Neither Monica Wesger nor Mylinh La made an inventive contribution to the invention described and claimed in the above-identified application.
- I, ULRUKE ZAREL, declare further that all statements made horsin of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by line or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jacopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Date: X 16.7.04

Ulriko Zabel